

anteeing its independence against all the world, except would be nearly as valuable to us as if it were our Q should she take it, I would not immediately go to \v because the first war on other accounts will give it to -c island will give itself to us, when able to do so. (1 Monroe, 1823. C. VII., 288.)

DEBT.—Whether one generation of men has a rig-h another is a question of such consequence as not only decision, but place also, among the fundamental prit every government. That no such obligation can be |.n I think very capable of proof. I set out on this grounc suppose to be self-evident: that the earth belong-s in to the living, that the dead have neither right nor powe The portion occupied by any individual ceases to be himself ceases to be, and reverts to the society. If th has formed no rules for the appropriation of its lands alty, it will be taken by the first occupants. These -will < be the wife and children of the decedent. If they hav< rules of appropriation, those rules may give it to the children, or to some of them, or to the legatee of the c So they may give it to his creditors. But the child, thi or creditor take it, not by any natural right, but by a la society of which they are members, and to which they ject. Then no man can by natural right oblige the occupied, or the persons who> succeed him in that occ to the payment of debts contracted by him. For if fc he might during his own life eat up the usufruct of the : several generations to come, and then the lands would b the dead and not to the living which is the reverse of 1 ciple. What is true of every member of the society indi is true of them all collectively, since the rights of th can be no more than the sum of the rights of individual no generation can. contract debts greater than may during the course of its own existence. * *

* I years is the term beyond which neither the representat: nation nor even the whole nation itself, can validly e